This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A directional microphone, comprising:

a first sound entrance port and a second sound entrance port that are spatially separate from one another;

a first air volume, a second air volume, and a third air volume;

a first and second membrane that are respectively acoustically connected via the first and second air volumes with the first and second sound entrance port, the first and second membrane being acoustically coupled with one another via the third air volume comprising air regions that are entirely unobstructed between the first and second membranes; and

an output signal generator configured to generate an output signal of the directional microphone from a vibration of at least one of the first and second membrane.

2. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 1, wherein the output signal generator comprises an electrically conductive layer on at least one of the first and second membranes.

3. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 2, wherein the output signal generator comprises a backplate electrode at the electrically conductive layer.

4. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 3, wherein

the electrically conductive layer and the backplate electrode form a capacitive transducer element.

5. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 3, wherein both the first and second membrane are electrically conductively coated, and together with the backplate electrode respectively form a capacitive transducer element.

6. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 1, wherein the first and second membranes are arranged parallel to one another.

7. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 3, further comprising:

an air gap lying between one of the first and second membrane and the backplate electrode, the backplate electrode being arranged between the first and second membranes.

8. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 3, wherein the backplate electrode comprises air ducts for acoustic coupling.

9. (original) The directional microphone according to claim 8, wherein the air ducts are arranged running parallel to one another and perpendicular to the membranes.

10. (currently amended) ~~The directional microphone according to claim 1,~~

A directional microphone, comprising:

a first sound entrance port and a second sound entrance port that are spatially separate from one another;

a first air volume, a second air volume, and a third air volume;

a first and second membrane that are respectively acoustically connected via the first and second air volumes with the first and second sound entrance port, the first and second membrane being acoustically coupled with one another via the third air volume; and

an output signal generator configured to generate an output signal of the directional microphone from a vibration of at least one of the first and second membrane;

wherein at least one of the first and second membranes comprises a small penetration opening for barometric pressure equalization.

11. (currently amended) A hearing aid system, comprising:

the directional microphone according to claim 1;

an omnidirectional microphone configured to produce an omnidirectional microphone signal; and

a signal processing unit connected to the directional microphone and the omnidirectional microphone, the signal processing unit being configured to utilize the omnidirectional microphone signal and directional microphone signal to generate an output signal ~~of the directional microphone~~ corresponding to a directional characteristic.

12. (original) A method for utilizing a hearing aid device, comprising:

providing a directional microphone according to claim 1 for the hearing aid device; and

generating an output signal of the directional microphone from a vibration of at least one of the first and second membrane.

13. (new) A method for operating a directional microphone, comprising:

providing an acoustic wave at a first sound entrance port of the directional microphone;

providing the acoustic wave at a second sound entrance port of the directional microphone at a location that differs from the first sound entrance port at a later time due to a difference in distance of the acoustic wave source from the first sound entrance port and the second sound entrance port respectively;

vibrating a first membrane that is acoustically connected to the first sound entrance port via a first air volume based on the acoustic wave at the first sound entrance port;

vibrating a second membrane that is acoustically connected to the second sound entrance port via a second air volume based on the acoustic wave at the second sound entrance port;

superimposing the second membrane vibration onto the first membrane via a third air volume comprising air regions that are entirely unobstructed between the first and second membranes; and

outputting a signal corresponding to the vibration of the first membrane having the superimposed second membrane vibration on it due to mechanical coupling.